

# **APPROVED**

## **Commission on Aging**

Minutes of June 10, 2013

MEMBERS PRESENT: Will Bigl (2015), Sam Gordon (2014), April Holinko (2014), Bev Korba (2014), Laurie McMorrow (2014), Don Nolan (2014), Joan Terry, (2013)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bettejane Karnes (2015), Steve Kegler (2015)

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES: Estelle Elliott (Wright's Way), Marilyn Gerling (Glen Ridge), Emile Poirier (Jensen's), Martina Warton (Juniper Hill)

STAFF: Cynthia Dainton, Senior Center Coordinator

**Minutes** - The minutes of the May 13, 2013 meeting were approved as written.

**Correspondence** – April circulated an announcement for a Mansfield Tomorrow open house to be held at the Buchanan Center.

**Senior Center/ Wellness Center** - Cindy explained about problems with the medical transportation grant in that it has been overspent by \$11,000, resulting in necessary cutbacks. There is no more out of region service at this time. Also there is no money for physicals or background checks making it impossible to recruit additional drivers for the new van. In addition, the volunteer driver program must be covered by the senior center budget. Trips to the library and BigY with the new van will not continue. The volunteer driver coordinator's hours have been returned to ten hours per week.

The senior center evaluation results are in draft form. The Town Manager is reviewing them. Cindy would like to share the results with the Commission on Aging in the fall.

**Senior Housing News** – Martina said Juniper Hill has a new gazebo. Marilyn reported that Glen Ridge had a successful open house on June 9. Estelle raised the issue of elderly and disabled clients at Wrights Way and

the difficulties between the two groups. Laurie volunteered to look into the structure of the Housing Authority, information that will help us determine what we may be able to do as a Commission to help improve the situation.

**New Business** – Several members agreed to consider being officers for the coming year and we will elect a slate in September.

**Triad** – Will said that the results of the police academy program were excellent. He plans to do a “purse patrol” at a local store around Thanksgiving to remind shoppers to be aware of their belongings while shopping.

**Human Services Vacant Positions** – The youth services counselor position has been posted even though the current employee has not yet retired. There will be a national search for the position of director. Kathy Ann Easley has been asked to relocate to the Senior Center and to assume responsibility for both her current job plus the senior services worker. Our members expressed their disappointment in the decision regarding the lack of hiring of a senior services worker. Several members plan to speak on the matter at a town council meeting in the near future.

**Commission Goals** – Each commission member was asked to think about goals for next year and to send their suggestions to April within a month. She will compile them to be considered in the fall.

Respectfully submitted, Joan Terry, secretary

**Next Meeting: September 9th**

## **Goals for the Commission on Aging 2012-2013**

1. Monitor Mansfield's Long-Range Plan for seniors with a continued focus on priority issues of senior safety, information dissemination, senior center space needs and health care needs including changing federal benefit programs.
2. Continue to advocate for the installation of a bus shelter at the Route 275/Community Center bus stop.
3. Advocate for increased hours for the volunteer driver coordinator.
4. Encourage the Downtown Partnership to make the new Storrs downtown senior friendly.
5. Monitor the development of an independent living/assisted living facility in Mansfield.
6. Continue to monitor the hiring process of a Senior Services Social Worker.